

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Yoshiaki NIWA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/531,989

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/013550)

I.A. Filed : October 23, 2003

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

For : BENDING MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP03/013550, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report was enclosed with the papers when entering the U.S. National Stage on April 20, 2005. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-221630, together with an English language abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the present application;

U.S. Patent No. 5,969,973, together with patent family member Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-509618, together with a partial English language machine-translation of the same. Applicants note that both documents are cited on page 2 of the specification of the present application;

U.S Patent Application No. 08/386,369, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,969,973, and which claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 08/338,113 (abandoned). Applicants note that these documents are cited on page 2 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No.2001-259743, together with an English language abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2000-254728, together with an English language abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-314117, together with an English language abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-155452, together with an English language abstract of the same.

Further, Applicants call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 5,934,133;

U.S. Patent No. 6,374,658;

U.S. Patent No. 6,480,269;
U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0010078; and
U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0000269.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents and the U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

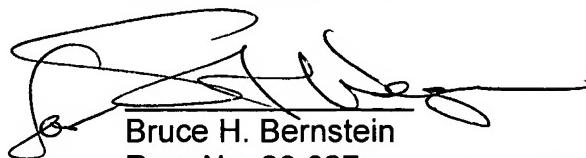
Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application has been scanned into the image file wrapper system, a copy of the U.S. patent application is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are enclosed together with a duly completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each of these documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yoshiaki NIWA et al.



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